

1,000 occupy public housing project

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — More than 1,000 people took over an abandoned public housing project with the support of Rev. Leonardo Boff, Brazil's leading liberation theologian, newspaper reported Saturday. About 300 homeless families occupied the housing project in Itaipava, 78 kilometres north of Rio de Janeiro, on Friday, according to Rio's *O Globo* newspaper. No one was reported injured. Itaipava police could not immediately confirm the report, said officer Denilson Reis. Rev. Boff, the nation's foremost proponent of liberation theology — a movement linking spiritual liberation with freedom from social and economic oppression — spent Friday at the housing project mediating possession disputes between families, according to *O Globo*. In Brazil, Roman Catholic priests, including Rev. Boff, have frequently supported homeless rural peasants in clashes with ranchers over land ownership, a position not sanctioned or supported by the Vatican. In 1985, the Vatican sentenced Rev. Boff to a year of "obedient silence" for criticising the church. The Vatican suspended the sentence after 10 months.

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Challenger delegation arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the U.S. Challenger space centre arrived here Saturday on a six-day visit to Jordan. During the visit the delegation will hold talks with officials at the Ministry of Higher Education and Jordanian universities and will visit a number of historical and archaeological sites in the country. The delegation comprises the centre's director and five members of the families of the crew of the Challenger space shuttle which crashed last year.

Talks pave way for Venice summit

PORTO CERVO, Sardinia (R) — A three-day meeting to prepare for the Venice summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations ended Saturday at this exclusive Sardinian resort. The Venice summit of leaders of the United States, Canada, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Japan is due to take place from June 8-10.

Congressmen seek Stinger probe

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Two members of Congress are calling for an audit of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) methods in controlling delivery of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Angola and Afghanistan after a news report that some of the missiles were "discovered" in Zambia. Senator Dennis DeConcini and Representative William Gray want the General Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct an audit of CIA activities.

Salvador rebels stage major attack

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — Leftist guerrillas attacked the main army base in the northeastern rebel stronghold of Morazan province early Saturday, killing 10 soldiers and a civilian woman, the base commander said. Fourteen soldiers were wounded in the attack on the 4th military detachment in San Francisco Gotera, about 160 kilometres east of San Salvador.

China assumes presidency of Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (R) — China's U.N. representative, Li Liye, took over on Friday as president of the Security Council, succeeding Boris Tsvetkov of Bulgaria. The post rotates monthly according to the English alphabetical order of the 15 member delegations.

U.S. awaiting report on Moscow embassy

WASHINGTON (R) — Faced with congressional moves to force demolition of the new "bugged" U.S. embassy in Moscow, said Friday it was waiting for completion of a high-level study before taking a decision on the building's future. James Schlesinger, former defence secretary and former Central Intelligence Agency director, was named in February by Secretary of State George Shultz to make a comprehensive review of the embassy complex's chancery — or office building — which Mr. Shultz has said is full of Soviet listening devices.

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Jordan dismisses Israeli claim of agreement on talks

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib said on Saturday that reports of an Arab-U.S.-Israeli agreement on peace talks were "non-sense" and that Jordan would be the party to announce such an agreement if there was one.

"I'm talking about all this Israeli way of talking," Mr. Khatib was quoted as saying in a telephone interview with AP. "We decided this, we reached that... all this is nonsense," Mr. Khatib told the news agency.

An Israeli government official claimed on Friday an agreement had been reached on a "document of understanding" that called for convening an international conference that would lead to direct talks between Jordan and Israel on a Middle East settlement.

In his interview with AP, Mr. Khatib denied there was any such agreement. "If we have something, we are the side that will announce it," he was quoted as saying.

On Friday, the unidentified Israeli official, reportedly close to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, told foreign reporters that Israel, Jordan and the United States

and Egypt had removed points of contention and agreed on a set of principles for a peace conference. The official said the purported accord included a key principle governing the question of Palestinian representation, stipulating that all delegates would have to renounce "terror and violence," a phrase seen as the Israelis as excluding the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

AP quoted another well-placed Jordanian official as also saying on Saturday the Israeli report was not accurate and that Jordan had not changed its position.

"All I can assure you is that we have not changed our position as to Palestinian representation, or as to the international conference," the official was quoted as saying by AP. The official, who was not identified, noted that Jordan had been discussing the guidelines for a peace conference with U.S. diplomats and said:

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinians mourn victims of Israeli raid on South Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — The raid was Israel's 13th on Lebanon this year and the 10th in the air; Palestinians in refugee camps east of Sidon on Saturday mourned 18 people, including two children, killed in an Israeli air raid.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuter said 16 more people were injured in Friday's attack by four US-made F-16 warplanes using at least 40 rockets and bombs weighing up to 750 kilogrammes.

More bodies might still be found in the rubble of demolished buildings, the sources said.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) statement said earlier that seven of the dead were civilians.

Witnesses quoted by Reuter said about 3,000 people marched in the funeral of eight of the dead, who were buried to the sounds of Palestinian songs and volleys of automatic rifle fire.

Black violence and protests forerun white polls in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — An upsurge of violence and protest has overshadowed the campaigning for Wednesday's whites-only election, a target of the most intense black opposition activity in months.

Strikes by black workers have provoked mass firings and at least 11 deaths in two weeks, police have whipped or tear-gassed protesters at three universities and anti-apartheid groups plan a nationwide school and work boycott on election day.

The turmoil has not altered the general assumption that President P.W. Botha's National Party will retain its large majority in parliament's dominant white chamber. But opposition pleads for change have a new urgency and the nationalists are emphasising security issues.

The National party defended the April 25 army raid against alleged African National Congress (ANC) targets in Zambia, despite complaints it was an election stunt. Its advertisements imply that the Progressive Federal Party, the main liberal opposition, would hand over power to the banned ANC.

But Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the black Nobel peace laureate, said in a message to white voters: "Whatever you do, know clearly that there is no way the whites can will away the ANC, that negotiations will one day have to be entered into with

"We will retaliate... the coming stage will see daring operations," said Mr. Abed Mooti, also known as Abu Yasser.

Reporters in Sidon said Palestinians had abandoned most of their bases in and around the refugee camps of Mieh Mieh and Ain Al Hilweh and spread out in the fields to avoid casualties in any further Israeli strike.

Most of Friday's casualties fell in the main square of Mieh Mieh which was hit by 18 rockets, the reporters said in telephone dispatches from the scene.

Six buildings were destroyed in the 55-minute air attack.

At the United Nations, Lebanon said Friday it had indications Israel was likely, at any time, to launch a major military attack north of the so-called "security zone" that it maintains inside Lebanese territory.

Mr. Nakasone, in return, has tried to assure the United States that his government is striving to reduce foreign trade supremacy of \$101.4 billion worldwide last year. More than half the total, \$58.6 billion, was in trade surpluses with the United States.

A major force behind the election protest is the 600,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions, (COSATU), which says the election "deepens racism, fear and ignorance among the white electorate."

Close to 30,000 black rail and postal workers affiliated with COSATU are on strike. The seven-week rail strike, the longest and largest ever in South Africa's public sector, led to the dismissal of more than 17,000 strikers.

In another development, the United States said Friday it was deeply concerned over South Africa's detention of an American television network's camera crew as riot police moved against protesting students.

"We are deeply concerned about the matter. We are looking into it both here and in South Africa," State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

"There is no way," said Archbishop Tutu, "that a small minority can go on ruling this country on its own forever."

The stayaway planned for Tuesday and Wednesday is the first attempt at a black national strike since June 16, the anniversary of 1976 riots in Soweto. The current state of emergency, which has severely curtailed black protest, was declared June 12 in part to control the stayaway.

Mr. Nakasone and Mr. Reagan ended two days of talks Friday by issuing a joint statement that affirmed their desire to narrow the trade gap between the two nations. (See page 7).

On Saturday, Secretary of State George Shultz told Mr. Nakasone that his visit to Washington had been very useful despite trade tensions with the United States, a Japanese press spokesman said.

Mr. Shultz made the comment at a breakfast meeting with Mr. Nakasone before the Japanese leader left for home.

A Japanese spokesman said the talks with Mr. Shultz focused on the outcome of Mr. Nakasone's meetings with Mr. Reagan and other top administration officials.

The House of Representatives, in an action timed to coincide with the visit, passed a tough trade bill on Thursday that could force retaliation against Japan.

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Jordan marks anniversary of King's assumption of constitutional powers

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan on Saturday marked the 34th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

Since assuming his duties in 1953, King Hussein has been devoting his time and effort to serving his country and the Arab Nation and his relentless endeavours have been rewarded with development and progress in Jordan.

Under King Hussein, Jordan has won world-wide respect and enjoys stability and security, which contribute to the Kingdom's progress and development.

The King's moderate and wise leadership enhanced Jordan's credibility world-wide and helped bolster Jordan's relations with world nations.

On the domestic front, King Hussein has succeeded in providing Jordan with the means to ensure strength and development in the fields of economy, science and social affairs.

In true commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revival, King Hussein has worked hard to strengthen the Jordanian

spiracies designed to Judaize the occupied Arab territory and evict Arab inhabitants from their homeland. Under King Hussein Jordan has been striving with all its might to help the Palestinian people liberate their land and regain their rights and territory.

On the occasion of the anniversary on Saturday the King received cables of congratulations in which the senders expressed pride in his leadership. The cables said that under the leadership of King Hussein, Jordan made great strides on the road to achieve its national aspirations and substantiate its international credibility.

The cables were sent by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayez, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the directors of the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments, senior civil and military officials as well as heads of official and popular organisations in the country.

Baghdad has said little about Iran's latest thrust but war communiques have reported hundreds of air attacks on Iranian concentrations and positions during the past few days. A Baghdad war communiqué issued on Friday said Iraqi forces had repulsed an overnight Iranian attack on a border mountain peak on the northern front, killing most of the attackers.

The communiqué said Iraqi forces also destroyed 28 vehicles, 13 infantry positions and killed a group of Iranians in the sector. Iran said Saturday Iranian patrols in the northwestern border region near the town of Sar Dasht clashed with Iraqi troops. Iran's official news agency said Saturday Iranian marines intercepted and boarded 14 foreign ships and oil tankers at the Strait of Hormuz in search for Iraq-bound goods.

All vessels searched Friday by the Iranian navy were allowed to continue voyage after no "suspicious" goods were found on board, said a communiqué carried by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). It would be technically difficult since the Norwegian water had been mixed with deliveries from other countries.

Since Norway made the original sale to Israel and shipped a further tonne in 1970, the IAEA has developed technology which can find traces of different deliveries of heavy water, diplomatic sources said.

Bronneshak said he did not know the exact quantities of heavy water sold to France in the 1950s and 1960s, but government sources put the figure at around 100 tonnes.

"The Israelis have refused independent inspection of our heavy water because they feel that the IAEA is politically biased against them," Bronneshak said.

Norway sent a diplomatic mission to Israel last month to ask for an inspection, but the Israelis said

after researchers and parliamentarians said the water might have been used to make plutonium for nuclear weapons.

The government would now assess whether Norway had the technology to carry out an investigation itself, Bronneshak said.

Government sources have said that if Norway is not allowed to make an inspection — a condition of the original sale — it would be considered a breach of contract and Norway might attempt to recall the water.

"We are also checking allegations that France sold Norwegian heavy water to Israel in the 1950s and 1960s," Bronneshak said. "If this is true, the French sale would have breached a clause in the contract barring re-export."

He said the allegations, made by French author Pierre Pean in a

book called "Deux Bombes" (Two Bombs), had only recently been noticed in Norway in the wake of concern over the heavy water sales to Israel.

Israel has refused to confirm or deny that they form part of its military arsenal.

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Speculation about Israel's use of the water surfaced last October after Mordechai Vanunu, a former technician at its Dimona nuclear reactor, was quoted as saying that the country had been producing nuclear weapons for 20 years.

Mr. Vanunu is now being held in a top-security Israeli jail, awaiting trial on "treason" charges.

Mr. Bumpers said he would take the issue to the Senate when the supplemental bill is being considered possibly next week.

The House of Representatives is already on record as supporting the amendment. It approved the measure last week along with a provision calling for a one-year ban on nuclear tests above one kiloton, which Mr. Reagan also opposes.

Mr. Reagan, whose administration appears close to concluding its first arms control agreement with Moscow, has said he will veto any bill containing the SALT-II and test ban provisions.

But Democratic leaders in Congress, determined to pass arms control legislation, Mr. Reagan opposes, have said if they are unsuccessful with the supplemental bill, they will try to attach the arms control provisions to the legislation difficult for Mr. Reagan to veto, such as the Defense Department bill.

8 killed in Gaza collision

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — A private bus smashed into a U.N. vehicle Saturday, killing eight people and injuring 11, three of them seriously, police said. Police said the accident occurred about 20 kilometres south of Gaza City. A police spokesman said the bus was travelling behind the U.N. vehicle when the U.N. vehicle slowed down and the bus slammed into it. A U.N. official said eight people in the U.N. vehicle were killed and nine were injured. He said those killed and injured were employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). He said they worked in Gaza and were on their way home to Khan Yunis, a city about 25 kilometres south of Gaza, when the accident occurred. The official did not immediately know how many passengers were in the U.N. vehicle. Police said they did not know how many people were in the bus.

Washington says NATO is not resisting quick arms accord

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States on Friday rejected suggestions that key Western allies were resisting a quick decision on a medium-range nuclear weapons agreement for Europe.

"Those are your conclusions, not mine. I don't share them," State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters when asked about

White House denies new evidence suggesting Reagan knew of contra aid

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House has disputed new evidence suggesting that President Reagan knew more about possibly illegal aid to Nicaraguan contra rebels than he has admitted.

"The president was never advised of this matter," White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater told reporters in reference to a report by an FBI agent who interviewed fired National Security Council (NSC) aide Oliver North in July 1985.

The report quoted Col. North as saying that in June 1985 he discussed with Mr. Reagan and former NSC chief Robert McFarlane a possible contribution to the contra by an Iranian posing as a Saudi Arabian prince.

But Mr. Fitzwater said: "The president's recollection is that there was never any such meeting."

Mr. Reagan's role in contra fund-raising efforts will be major focus of congressional hearings on the Iran scandal which opened on Tuesday. Between October 1984 and October 1986, direct or indirect U.S. government aid to the rebels was banned by law.

Mr. Reagan has reportedly insisted his only involvement was to greet and thank individuals for money used for pro-contra television commercials, not for military funding.

Mr. Reagan told a news conference on March 19: "When I met with them, I met with them to thank them because they had raised money to put spots on television in favour of the contras in an effort to try to influence Congress to continue giving aid."

The FBI report surfaced a day after conservative fund-raiser Carl "Spitz" Channell, pleading guilty to a conspiracy charge stemming from his efforts to arm the contras, named Col. North as a co-conspirator.

Although Mr. Reagan met some of Mr. Channell's contribu-

tors, he told reporters Thursday night he knew little about him.

"I'm kind of a stranger to this whole thing," Mr. Reagan told questioners during a state dinner for Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

In a related development, the Washington Post reported Friday that in 1985, Mr. Channell paid David Fischer, Reagan's former personal assistant, a \$20,000 monthly retainer primarily to arrange private meetings between Mr. Reagan and his major contributors.

Mr. Fitzwater confirmed that Mr. Fischer had arranged several meetings on behalf of the National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty, a Channell fundraising organization.

"In every case, the documentation shows the (meetings took place) because of the money that they were raising for advertising and education purposes," the spokesman said.

On Sunday, Mr. Reagan is scheduled to deliver his first major speech on contra aid since the Iran scandal broke.

Mr. Fitzwater said the president will address the 100th annual convention of the American Newspaper Publishers Association at Ellis Island, New York, on the need for continued U.S. support for the Nicaraguan rebels.

Mr. Channell pleaded to a single count and agreed to cooperate in independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh's investigation.

Mr. Walsh's formal charge, known as a criminal information, said Mr. Channell was involved with a U.S. government official, but the charge did not identify that official.

However, when Mr. Channell

was asked in court by U.S. district Judge Stanley S. Harris to name the persons with whom he conspired, he replied simply, "Col. North, an official of the National Security Council."

When Walsh's aide Michael Bromwich was asked later if a similar charge could be expected soon against Col. North, he said, "we're not prepared to do that at this time."

Under the agreement Mr. Channell entered into with Mr. Walsh, the fund-raiser and several of his employees said they would cooperate with Mr. Walsh's investigation into possible criminal activity in the secret sale of weapons to Iran and in the funding of the contras.

The developments came less than a week before congressional panels are to open public hearings on the Iran-contra affair and just one day after Mr. Walsh suggested prosecutions would be endangered if Congress granted immunity from prosecution to any more principal figures in the investigation.

On Capitol Hill leaders of the congressional panels said retired Air Force Major Gen. Richard Secord, a pivotal figure with key financial information on the affair, will be the first public witness in the hearings that begin on Tuesday. Gen. Secord, who declined to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier, will appear without an immunity grant.

Former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane will follow Gen. Secord, the panels' leaders said.

Mr. Channell's guilty plea came as Mr. McFarlane was testifying before the grand jury empaneled by Mr. Walsh. Mr. McFarlane, who travelled to Iran in 1986 in an attempt to close an arms-for-hostages deal, declined to comment as he left the grand jury room.

Maksoud: Israeli air raids killed 13

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab League's U.N. observer has said at least 13 people were killed and 35 wounded in Israeli air strikes Friday against Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

Ambassador Clovis Maksoud said: "Today's massive Israeli air strikes against heavily populated Palestinian refugee camps near the cities of Tyre and Sidon left at least 13 people dead and 35 others injured, the highest toll in any one Israeli raid so far this year."

The charge to which Mr. Channell pleaded guilty carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The judge agreed to delay Mr. Channell's sentencing until in Bromwich's words, "the completion of his cooperation" with the investigation.

A Channell spokesman has said the fund-raiser relied a dozen or more times on Col. North to brief potential contributors to the contras. And the formal charge against Mr. Channell, while not naming Col. North, said there were numerous other meetings in Washington and Dallas.

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Group kidnaps Iranian in Beirut hoping to swap with Terry Waite

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The Lebanese weekly that broke the news of U.S. arms sales to Iran last November has said that an Iranian kidnapped in Beirut was seized by a group hoping to swap for Terry Waite, the missing representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Ash Shirazi said in its latest issue that Mohammad Khateem, describes an Iranian embassy employee and the brother of a Muslim clergyman supervising a holy Shi'ite shrine outside Damascus, was being held in a secret flat outside Beirut by an unnamed faction offering to exchange him for Mr. Waite.

If the report is correct, it kidnapping would be the first of a foreigner in west Beirut since 7,000 Syrian troops were deployed there two months ago to end militia rule.

The Iranian embassy did not comment on the report.

The article reporting the kidnapping was issued to journalists ahead of publication, which was scheduled for May 1. It said kidnappers were members of Lebanese political party who had been based outside Beirut.

Klibi says Ghana can help end Gulf war

ABIDJAN (R) — Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi has voiced optimism that Ghana, a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, could help find a peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq war, Accra Radio reported.

Mr. Klibi said Friday that the raid against targets near the Palestinian refugee camp of Miyeh Miyeh, the 13th Israeli air raid on Lebanon this year, was part of a stepped-up war against Palestinian commands.

The radio, monitored in Abidjan, quoted Mr. Klibi as telling reporters before flying to Congo that he was satisfied at Ghana's response to the league's current diplomatic initiative to end the six-year-old conflict.

Mr. Klibi would "play a positive role in the quest for a lasting solution to the war," the radio said.

Mr. Klibi and four other Arab League delegates flew into the West African nation for talks with Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings.

3 Israelis held for burglary in Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Three Israelis, including a woman, have been arrested and charged with breaking into a jewellery shop in this port city.

The official Libyan News Agency JANA said Marwell was freed following the intervention of Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi after an appeal by Scottish legislator Ron Brown and colleagues.

Mr. Brown is a member of Britain's socialist opposition Labour Party. He made the appeal while in Libya to attend a peace conference called to denounce last year's American bombing attack against Libya on the first anniversary of the raids on April 15.

Maxwell told reporters at Gaiwick: "I was never a spy. I was guilty of doing two jobs. They said I was doing someone out of a job." He said he believed he had been the victim of political disagreement between Libya and Britain.

Britain broke diplomatic ties with Libya following the 11-day siege at the Libyan embassy in London in April 1984 and they have not been restored.

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But two policemen told the Larnaca district court that they saw Miss Maymoni sitting in a parked, rented car outside the shop shortly before the burglars broke in.

that a conference would result.

"We don't know where it's going to go. We'll just have to wait and see," a senior administration official told Reuters in Washington.

"Our position on the peace process has been clear," Redman told reporters on Thursday. "Our objective is a comprehensive peace, and to that end, we have been working with the parties in the region for many months. He said the United States was "convinced that peace can only be achieved through bilateral direct negotiations," adding that "we have been exploring with the facts."

Israeli Television said U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told Mr. Shamir on Friday Washington backed a non-coercive international conference that would meet briefly to open the way for direct talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

U.S. officials said they believed the deep gulf between Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir, uneasy partners in a coalition government, was responsible for Friday's remarks by the Peres' aide.

"It's only surfaced in Israel and obviously that's for internal Israeli political reasons," said one U.S. official.

American diplomats in Tel Aviv, reluctant to become embroiled in domestic Israeli politics, declined comment on the reports.

Jordan rejects Israeli claim

(Continued from page 1)

The senior Israeli official said Friday U.S. President Ronald Reagan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz had given their blessing to the "document of understanding" which Mr. Peres would present to Israel's 10-man inner cabinet for approval, possibly next Wednesday.

Before then Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir were due to meet Saturday with little apparent prospect of reconciling their differences.

Peres' aides often radiate an optimism hard to reconcile with the facts.

Israeli Television said U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told Mr. Shamir on Friday Washington backed a non-coercive international conference that would meet briefly to open the way for direct talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

In Washington, U.S. officials said diplomacy involved in organizing a peace conference had reached a delicate stage and were making progress.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said although significant progress was being made, it was still far from clear

Gulf states may introduce death penalty for drugs

By Nabila Megalli
Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Saudi Arabia's clerics have decreed that drug traffickers will be beheaded, as part of an anti-narcotics campaign that is expected to spread among the Gulf states.

Convicted drug dealers will be flogged publicly on their first offense and have their heads chopped off for the second, according to a decree announced recently by the interior minister, Prince Naseef.

The neighbouring Gulf state of Qatar quickly emulated the move and swore to eradicate narcotics.

Gulf police sources said they believe the death penalty will be prescribed in other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in a bid to stem a drug tide swelled by the region's oil wealth.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain,

Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in an economic and defence alliance.

The Saudi decision carries religious weight for other Muslim states because it is the birthplace of Islam. Its laws are based on the Sharia, a code derived from the Koran.

The penalty for convicted smugglers was passed in March by Saudi Arabia's Ulema, a group of scholars empowered to interpret the Koran and develop laws.

Sharia Law has two primary sources, the Koran and the Sunna, or day-to-day practices of Prophet Mohammed in his lifetime. Unlike prohibitions against liquor, there are no clear-cut drug rulings in the Koran or Sunna.

But the Ulema categorised smugglers under the Koranic verse that condemns people who "corrupt the earth and should be killed, crucified, or have their

hands and legs cut off."

Iran's Islamic rulers, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has used this verse to justify using the death penalty for hundreds of drug smugglers since it came to power in 1979. Elsewhere in the Islamic World, Malaysia, which has a Muslim majority, also executes drug smugglers.

Between 1983 and 1985, police arrested 1,100 people in narcotics-related cases in the United Arab Emirates, including Dubai.

The arrested included 696 Asians, 242 Gulf Arabs, 109 expatriate Arabs and 53 Africans, Europeans and Americans.

Prince Naseef, King Fahd's brother, said in an interview with Al Hawadz magazine that drug addiction is a limited problem in Saudi Arabia.

Explaining the death penalty to Riyadh's police, he said the Ulema and King Fahd "do not decree the penalty for the sake of killing, but (as) a deterrent and a reminder to those bent on harming the nation."

Lt. Col. Abdul Aziz, deputy chief of Dubai's Criminal Investi-

gation Department and head of its Narcotics Control Bureau, said in January that drug smuggling was increasing.

He said 545 kilogrammes of narcotics — mainly hashish, opium and heroin — were seized in Dubai in 1983.

In recent years, the other Gulf countries have stiffened the maximum penalty for drug smugglers to life imprisonment.

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He said 545 kilogrammes of narcotics — mainly hashish, opium and heroin — were seized in Dubai in 1983.

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Voter registration begins today in all governorates

AMMAN (Petra) — The process of registering voters for parliamentary elections in Jordan starts in all governorates today. Registration will take place at 700 registration offices assigned by the Ministry of Interior. The entire process will last until May 17.

The ministry has said that two registers, one for males and the other for females, will be opened for registering voters in different constituencies; eligible voters are those of 19 years of age and above.

According to the law, people convicted of crimes or individuals whose business have been declared bankrupt and have not yet settled their debts, are not eligible to vote. Also, all members of public security, the armed forces and the civil defence, will not be eligible to vote in the election, according to the law.

In announcing the measure on Wednesday, Minister of Interior Raja Daqiqi said that eligible voters can go to the registration

centre in their constituencies or send someone on their behalf to register accompanied by the "family book", the official identification document issued by the Civil Registration Department. Once registration is completed in all regions, the lists of eligible voters will be published in each constituency. Three days will be available for any comments, objections, or complaints, according to the minister. He said the preparation of lists was in conformity with Cabinet instructions issued to the governors last month.

The Lower House of Parliament has a mandate that ends in January 1988. The present house is expected to reconvene in ordinary session in October, after a recess that started in late February. An extension of the mandate of the present Lower House or a call for a general election depends wholly on a Royal Decree in accordance with the Jordanian constitution.

Constituencies, allocated seats

Article (1): In accordance with article no. 31 of the election law, the constituencies are to be divided as below:-

Article (2): Legislation governing local government divisions in the Kingdom are the basis for defining the constituency boundary (es).

Amman Governorate, the city of Amman; Six Muslim deputies (including one seat for Circassians and Shishans) and 1 Christian deputy.

Amman Governorate with the exception of the city of Amman; Area A: two Muslims, area B: one Muslim; Al-Windat refugee camp in Amman; one Muslim; Al-Hussein refugee camp in Amman; one Muslim; Al-Mahmud refugee camp; one Muslim; Madaba district; Two deputies one Christian and one Muslim; Wadi El Seer sub district; two Muslim deputies (One of them Circassian and Shishian).

Al-Muwaqqar and Jizah sub-district with the exception of the central area bedouins; one Muslim deputy; Al-Talbiyyeh refugee camp; one Muslim deputy; Na'irun sub-district; one Muslim deputy; Thabat sub-district; one Muslim deputy.

Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Governorate: The city of Jerusalem and Jericho district; six Muslim deputies and four Christian deputies. Ramallah district; six Muslim deputies and two Christian deputies. Bethlehem district; four Muslim deputies and four Christian deputies.

Irbid Governorate; seven Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.

Irbid refugee camp; one Muslim deputy; Al-Husn refugee camp; one Muslim deputy.

Ajloun district; two Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.

Jerash district; two Muslim deputies.

Jerash refugee camp; one Muslim deputy.

South refugee camp; one Muslim deputy.

Ramtha district; one Muslim deputy.

Northern Ghor (Jordan Valley) district; one Muslim deputy.

Al-Qurayn district; one Muslim deputy.

Bani Kenanah district; two Muslim deputies.

Nablus Governorate: The city of Nablus and its sub-district; two Muslim deputies.

Jenin district; six Muslim deputies.

Tulkarem district; six Muslim deputies.

Hebron Governorate; ten Muslim deputies.

Al-Balqa Governorate:

Salt city and Zai; three Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.

Al-Balqa Governorate except the city of Salt and Zai; two Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.

Al-Baqaa refugee camp; one Muslim deputy.

Karak Governorate; three Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.

Al-Safi districts; one Muslim deputy.

Southern Mazar and Qasr district; three Muslim deputies and one Christian deputy.

Ma'an Governorate except southern bedouin area; two Muslim deputies.

Agaba Governorate; one Muslim deputy.

Al-Shobak sub-district; one Muslim deputy.

Wadi Mousa sub-district; one Muslim deputy.

Zarqa Governorate; three Muslim deputies (including one for Circassians and Shishans) and one Christian deputy.

Zarqa refugee camp; one Muslim deputy.

Hittin refugee camp; one Muslim deputy.

Mafraq Governorate excluding northern bedouin area; two Muslim deputies.

Tarifah Governorate: three Muslim deputies.

Bedouin regions:

Northern bedouins (tribes of Bani Khaled, Al-Sarhan, Al-Eissa, Al-Suradieh, Al-Masaeed, Al-Sharafat, Al-Azamat, Al-Tarafshieh); two Muslim deputies.

Central bedouins: Bani Sakher (tribes of Al-Ghabreen, Al-Zibin, Al-Ka'abieh, Saleet, Al-Hiqash, Al-Khishan, Al-Jboor, Al-Shara' and Al-Badarin); two Muslim deputies.

Southern bedouins/Al-Hweitat tribes (Al-Matalqah, Al-Tawwab, Al-Suleimaniyyah, Al-Najadat, Al-Nir'ymat, Al-Maraiyeb, Al-Zaywadeh, Al-Manaen, Al-Hajaya, Bani Atiyeh); two Muslim deputies.

The legal committee also recommends the following: "As the unity of the two banks of Jordan is a standing constitutional unity and since the establishment of this unity, the parliamentary unity has been set up equally between the two banks as to the number of deputies represented and since this criterion was previously taken into consideration, the committee therefore recommends that nobody from either of the two banks should stand for election in the other and that the government should take this policy into consideration noting that the refugee camps' elections are to come under the West Bank's candidacies and that the areas to govern the refugee camps are to be set up by special rule."

Ministry says sufficient food supplies available

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Supply spokesman announced that the general supply situation in the country is good and that all food supplies are available in sufficient quantities and at reasonable prices.

He added that large quantities of local chicken, fish and meat

are now available in the markets to meet the shortage in the quantities of imported fresh and frozen meats.

The quantities of imported meats will return to its normal rate during the holy month of Ramadan, the spokesman said.



FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein performs Friday prayer at the special Royal Guards Mosque. The prayer was also attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and Chief Islamic

Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mbeian. The King listened to Friday's sermon which was delivered by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat in which he reviewed the virtues of fasting and of work in Islam. The King later received congratulations from well-wishers on the occasion of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan underlines efforts to promote labour movement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan celebrated Labour Day on Saturday, during which all government departments and public institutions remained closed. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said that the government will continue to give due care to the labour movement in the country and has recently extended workers benefits to Jordanian workers employed abroad.

Speaking at an *iftar* banquet he hosted at Amra Hotel for leaders of the labour movement in Jordan, the minister said that the workers of Jordan are the wealth of the country and their contributions to Jordan's prosperity are a great source of pride.

At the banquet, Samir Qardan, secretary general of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, made a speech in which he said that the labour unions of the country seek legislation designed for the social and economic needs of the workers today.

The labour unions seek to assist the government in organising labour markets, and governmental efforts to work out a



Khaled Al Haj Hassan

sound employment policy which offers work for all and housing for Jordanian workers, Mr. Qardan added.

On the eve of Labour Day, Mr. Haj Hassan said that Jordan's celebration of Labour Day this year coincides with the introduction of measures, whereby by

businesses employing five workers or more can be covered by the Social Security law; this will offer more benefits to an additional workers and protection against

old age, death and disability. The government has set up a committee to help find solutions to unemployment, the minister said. At present the total number of unemployed workers in Jordan is less than 30 per cent of the total number of non-Jordanian workers employed in the Kingdom. The government has been striving to give Jordanians priority in jobs and trying to create new jobs for the unemployed, the minister added.

The minister said that reports of Arab Gulf countries deciding to lay off Jordanian workers are baseless. In fact, the Jordanian workers in these countries are being treated fairly and satisfactorily, he said. According to the minister, Jordanians employed in the Gulf transferred JD 415 million last year, against JD 403 million in 1985.

Lately, the minister said, Saudi Arabia has notified his ministry of its intention to employ an additional 1,300 men and women teachers.

3 of 4 test-tube babies are in normal condition

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three out of four test-tube babies born to two Jordanian women here have survived and are in normal condition, Dr. Zaid Keilani, the doctor in charge of the operation,

centage compared to other countries is very good," Dr. Keilani said.

The second non-identical twin boys were delivered to the second mother after a Caesarian operation on Friday and both are in stable condition at the Khalidi Hospital, where both deliveries were made. The first weighed 2,200 grammes and the second 2,000 grammes.

"Our project was something like an intriguing detective story," Dr. Keilani told reporters who packed an office room at the Khalidi Hospital on Saturday. "But if we had to go through all the prolonged suffering and strain again," he said, "we would happily do it."

Dr. Keilani, flanked by his medical team of Dr. Lena Qahwaji, Dr. Fuad Hashweh and Dr. Raja Karaki, told the conference that "the results were rewarding. It is a thrill to watch these babies growing after all this work."

Dr. Keilani and his team

stated actual work on their project two years ago, with the first

in vitro fertilisation of a woman

taking place on May 5, 1985. "As a Jordanian doctor," Dr. Keilani said, "it used to be a dead end."

Dr. Keilani and his team have

so far handled 100 cases with 40

cases of successful fertilisation.

The success rate for test-tube

babies is 10 per cent.

Monday's first test-tube baby

came after 31 attempts by Dr.

Keilani and his team. "The per-

sonalities measures, Mr. Bataineh is said, but as a developing country faced with numerous challenges, particularly the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territory, Jordan has no alternative but to protect its industries in order to provide itself with the means of defending its citizens and its soil from aggression.

Mr. Bataineh, who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Lower House of Parliament, told the meeting that Israel's occupation of the West Bank has imposed additional burdens on Jordan.

Jordan and its parliament have adopted ideas which they presented to an international conference on development, held in Amman in December 1986.

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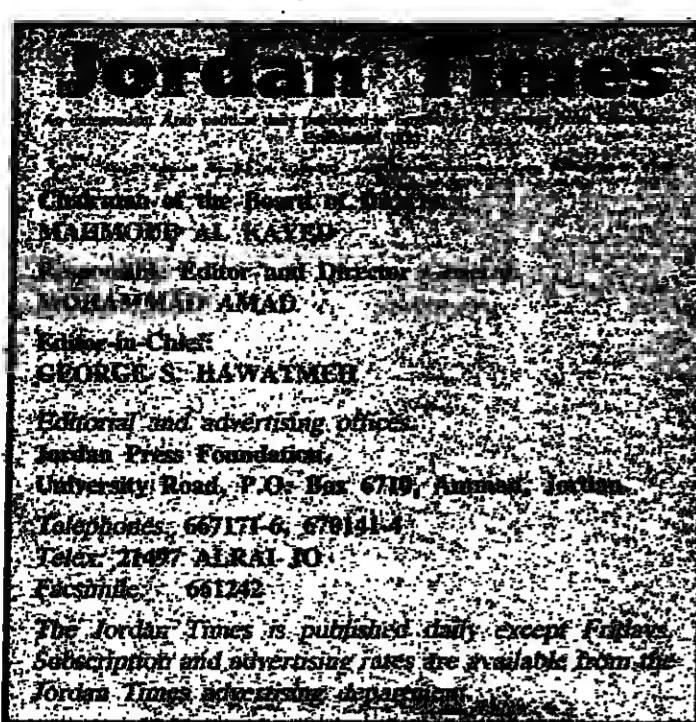
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Saturday's

Al Ra'i: Holding the nation's banner

THE Jordanian people today observe with pride the 34th anniversary of King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers in the Kingdom. For the past three decades the King has been upholding the banner of the Great Arab Revolt and has been striving to attain a brighter and prosperous future for the Jordanian family. He has been committed to the Arab Nation's causes and has translated his words into deeds in all his actions and in his relentless drive to unify Arab ranks and build intrinsic Arab power which is an indispensable factor in the nation's continuous drive towards regaining its rights and its usurped land. Under King Hussein's wise leadership the Kingdom has gone a long way towards meeting the aspirations of the Jordanian citizens in achieving economic and social development, thus transforming Jordan into an oasis of prosperity in the Middle East region. This country has been serving as an example of stability, a model of national unity and fortress of steadfastness and determination for achieving what is best for all members of the Jordanian family. King Hussein's care for and tremendous efforts towards building the armed forces has transformed these forces into a solid shield, protecting the nation. The Jordanian people who celebrate the anniversary remember these achievements and many more, carried out under the King's rule.

Al Dustour: No separate deals

JORDAN, represented by its Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib has denied that it has reached agreement with Israel on conditions for holding the proposed international conference. Jordan's position is firm and unchangeable with regard to a lasting and comprehensive settlement to be implemented through such conference in which all concerned parties and the U.N. Security Council members should participate. Jordan has been striving relentlessly for convening the conference for the sake of implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which had been accepted by Jordan, Egypt and Syria, the three Arab states whose lands were occupied by Israeli forces. An international conference was held in 1973 attended by Jordan, Egypt and Syria in addition to Israel but it did not achieve any result due to Israel's intransigence. Ever since that meeting, Jordan along with the Arab countries have been seeking to reconvene the international parley so that the Security Council resolutions can be implemented and Arab rights restored. But Israel and the United States which have both been placing obstacles in the path of such conference succeeded in 1979 in concluding the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, thus deviating real peace and a lasting and comprehensive settlement from their sound course. The Israeli propaganda campaign and the falsehoods about Jordan's agreement with Israel can only mean that the enemy is trying to draw a wedge among Arab countries to cause further splits within the Arab ranks, an attempt to undermine Jordan's national endeavours.

Sawt Al Shaab: 34 years of progress

IT has been 34 years since King Hussein assumed his constitutional powers as King of Jordan. During this period the country realised numerous achievements and has been enjoying a great deal of security, peace and prosperity. Above all, Jordan has been able to strengthen its steadfastness and confront its challenges and overcome all obstacles in the path of progress. Over the past 34 years, King Hussein has been raising the banner of the Great Arab Revolt and has continuously been striving for achieving the principles and the objectives of that revolt to serve the Arab Nation. The armed forces of Jordan serve as the army of the Great Arab Revolt in leading the drive to defend the Arab homeland under the Hashemite leadership. Jordan, under King Hussein, has been an advocate of solidarity among Arab countries and an active catalyst in every endeavour leading to a unification of ranks and pooling of resources in the face of the common threats and dangers. Jordan, under King Hussein, has been a pioneer in the on-going endeavours for hacking the struggle of the Palestinian people for regaining their rights and their homeland.

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Shamir repeats himself

ISRAEL'S prime minister has ended a visit to France by reiterating Israel's position with regard to the proposed international conference. Yitzhak Shamir seems to have told France's Prime Minister Jacques Chirac the same ideas like those being delivered in Washington, and these namely concern direct negotiations with the Arabs. France, like the other members of the European Community nations, is totally convinced that the U.S.-Israeli ideas can not contribute in any way to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Any efforts outside the framework of the international conference can not yield any lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and can by no means lead to the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. An international conference means the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 338 and 242 which Israel is trying to avoid with all its power because it does not want to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Shamir is afraid that at an international conference Israel will be forced to abandon the territory it has been occupying since 1967. Israel is trying hard to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land and unless the Arabs take concerted action to thwart its objectives nothing could ever be done to regain Arab land.

Al Dustour: Shamir's failure

YITZHAK Shamir's visit to France has ended with total failure because he had gone to Paris with the same Israeli ideas which are aimed at perpetuating Israel's occupation of the Arab lands. Shamir went to Paris carrying the idea of direct talks with each Arab state and imposing a de facto situation on every Arab neighbour, contrary to France's idea of an international conference where all concerned parties can meet and bring about an implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions that ensure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian land and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. All Shamir's efforts to persuade the French leaders to accept his ideas ended in failure and the government of France reiterated its firm position of supporting an international conference to achieve peace. Thus, France has again displayed to the world its deep faith in the proposed conference as a means of achieving justice in the Middle East through the implementation of United Nations resolutions. This French position reflects Paris's thorough perception of the real situation in the region and its desire to bring about a lasting peace to its people.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Free zone is not the solution for Aqaba's economy

DURING the last 25 years, the slogan of a "free Aqaba zone" was raised almost annually as if it was the definite cure for all our economic difficulties or those of Aqaba region.

Advocates of this slogan claim that they are not after encouraging more consumption of imported goods. What they want is the establishment of new industries, they maintain.

As a matter of fact the many industries already established in Aqaba may have to be dismantled and moved somewhere else in the country beyond the "free zone" boundaries. This may be necessary to avoid being treated as foreign industries. Staying in Aqaba would deprive those industries of the benefit from the bilateral and multilateral commercial agreements that Jordan is a party to and which do not cover free zone industries.

The fact that Aqaba is not a free zone did not, in any way, hinder the establishment of industries and touristic enterprises. On the contrary, such firms enjoyed the government's direct support and protection from foreign competition. The support and protection should of course be withdrawn in case the Aqaba region would be transformed into a free zone. Free zones, by definition, could not be supported, subsidised, or protected. Free zones are technically outside the country for all trading, financial, and customs purposes.

Perhaps the only change that would come about by granting Aqaba a free zone status is that the region would open up for the trading of imported goods, such as French perfumes and American cigarettes. Aqaba would become a base for the trafficking of imported goods to a country, Jordan, where import duty tax reaches eighty per cent or more. This would render illegal trafficking extremely profitable.

Free zones were established in Eilat and Port Said and turned out to be complete failures, although both ports enjoy better geographical settings than Aqaba. There is no foundation to the belief that the separation of Aqaba, economically and commercially, would bring it prosperity.

Arab countries look to the products of free zones as foreign produce. Jordan would have to change the usual duty on any such commodities if imported from the proposed duty free zone to Amman, just like any other foreign imports. Why should anyone, in his mind, think for a moment that the conversion of Aqaba to a free zone would encourage industry and production; or for that matter, that such production would be able to face up to foreign competition without any form of protection? We do not know in what way the free zone status may help Aqaba to become more

competitive in the export markets in the absence of local cheap labour.

The advocated conversion would create a foreign commodity market for Jordanians to consume at cheaper prices, which would benefit some importers and traders.

But even on this rather negative point, we have to warn the Aqaba local business community that should their city become a free zone, they would not be left alone. They would be flooded by international importers and sharks who would dominate such an activity and strip locals from their present business. Under free zone arrangement there would be no discrimination between local producers or businessmen and foreigners. We have every reason to fear that our people would fight a losing battle and would be uprooted by foreign fierce competition for which they are not yet ready and well equipped.

It is in everyone's interest to close this chapter for good, and to cease raising this empty slogan from time to time. It is harmful to Jordan in general and to Aqaba in particular. We would be better off looking into real solutions to our economic woes rather than jumping over ropes of fiction.

No end seen to Bangladesh's bloody hill war

By Anis Ahmad
Reuter

MANOGARH, Bangladesh — Sunset brings homes the full terror of the rebellion which has raged through Bangladesh's Chittagong hill tracts for 14 years.

The 2,000 villagers of Manogarh, a sprawling settlement of straw huts, are afraid to leave their homes after dark.

They cower in darkness, not even daring to light a lamp in case it attracts a burst of gunfire from either government forces or tribal rebels.

"We are hostages in an apparently pointless war," one village headman who requested anonymity told Reuters.

The villagers are caught between troops of the Muslim-dominated Bangladeshi government and rebels who come mainly from the Buddhist Chakma tribe.

Bangladesh, which means "Bengal nation" is home to 100 million of some of the poorest people in the world.

The simple pressure of too many people has driven many Muslim Bengalis from the delta plains into the hills occupied by tribal peoples of different cul-

tures and religion.

The rebels, known as the Shanti Bahini (Peace Force), took up arms in 1973 to oppose the government-sponsored resettlement of Bengalis and to press for autonomy for the hill tracts, which border Burma and India's Tripura state.

Although the Bangladesh government halted the resettlement programme in 1985, the war goes on. More than 1,100 civilians and 200 soldiers have been killed so far and there seems no end in sight.

Mistrust on both sides as military and guerrilla operations lengthen the toll of victims makes talks between the two sides unlikely.

"I am afraid the hill war will drag on for many more years unless the government seeks a truly political solution with the rebels," said Abdur Rashid, a businessman in the hill tracts village of Rangamati.

But tribal leaders told Reuters the major problem was the settlers, who now make up more than 40 per cent of the hill tracts' population of 550,000.

The tribal leaders accused the settlers of encroaching on tribal land and trying to destroy tribal

culture.

"The Shanti Bahini would disappear once you drive the settlers away from the predominantly Chakma areas and stop bringing in more people from the plains," one tribal leader said.

The government has mobilised 15,000 army and paramilitary troops to tackle the Shanti Bahini.

Despite army assertions that the Shanti Bahini has been almost wiped out, the guerrillas, estimated to number about 2,500, have been able to mount lethal attacks in the rugged, heavily forested hill tracts.

In the first two months of this year, they killed at least 35 settlers, including two pregnant women and several children.

In a statement, the Shanti Bahini said: "Whether we are killing adults or minors makes no difference. Our war is to drive the invaders out of our homeland and all settlers are our enemies."

Even though it has been accused of assault and extortion against fellow tribesmen, the Shanti Bahini has much support among the 165,000 Chakmas, who make up half the hill tracts' tribal population.

"Those in the Shanti Bahini are our sons and brothers. We cannot turn our backs on them because they are fighting for us," said Manogarh villager Manindra Chakma.

"They became rebels after the government took away their land and gave it to non-tribals, tortured tribal women and burnt their homes."

He added: "What can we do? We are caught in the cross-fire."

BANGLADESH



Promise of Chun's "Seoul spring" nipped in the bud

By Roger Crabb
Reuter

SEOUL — One year after President Chun Doo Hwan ushered in what became known as the "Seoul spring," South Korea's political climate has swung back to harsh winter with forecasts of violent squalls to come.

The democratic reforms so gaily talked about in mid-1986 have now been shelved indefinitely. When the president steps down next February, his successor will be named by an electoral college under the much-criticised 1980 constitution drawn up under martial law. It looks like being another former general.

Yet just 12 months ago hopes were high that South Korea was about to enter a new, more tolerant era. After long using his uncompromising, not police to snuff out opposition attempts to campaign for free elections, Chun had abruptly changed course.

On April 30, 1986, he announced that he would after all permit changes to the constitution to bring greater democracy on condition that government and opposition parties negotiated a compromise formula in parliament.

The two sides quickly set up a committee for constitutional reform with the aim of hammering out a basic law to put to the people by the year's end. It looked, fleetingly, as though the president had succeeded in breaking the rigid mould of South Korean politics.

His predecessors had fiercely resisted popular calls for democratic freedoms and eventually paid the price. South Korea's first president, Syngman Rhee, was brought down by student protests in 1960, while the increasingly dictatorial Park Chung-Hee was assassinated in 1979.

Chun wanted to go down in history as the man who left power voluntarily — his seven-year term expires next February — leaving behind democratic institutions.

One institution the ruling camp was not ready for, however, was a directly elected president, the number one aim of the major opposition grouping, the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP).

While NKDP leaders including the nation's two best known dissidents, Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam, were firm on their demand for direct elections, arguing that it was the system least vulnerable to manipulation, Chun's supporters proposed instead a Westminster-style cabinet system of government headed by

a powerful prime minister elected by the parliamentary majority.

With both sides refusing to budge, work in the special National Assembly committee ground to a halt and in late September the NKDP pulled out.

In the autumn, after a political truce during the Seoul Asian games, the Kims and their supporters resumed their calls for direct elections while the government, citing a security threat from communist North Korea, cracked down harder on radical opposition figures.

In late November an attempt by the NKDP and other opposition groups to mobilise one million people for a pro-democracy rally in Seoul was totally thwarted by a huge show of police strength.

At the end of the year voices within the NKDP, arguing that Chun was not going to yield on direct elections, began saying that compromise on the cabinet system just might be conceivable on condition the government implemented a series of democratic reform measures.

It was all rather tentative stuff, but the Kims angrily rejected the argument. They claimed its proponents, including nominal NKDP chief Lee Min-Won, were playing the government's game.

The intra-party feuding rumbled on until early April when the Kims, after failing to force Lee's resignation, split away to form a new party, taking all but a handful of NKDP assemblymen with them.

Less than a week later, on April 13, Chun went on television to reveal the "grave decision" he had been threatening since the new year. Because of the chaos in the opposition camp, and the lack of a single, valid negotiating partner, he said, he was banning any further talk of constitutional reform until after the Seoul Olympic Games end in October 1988.

Chun said his successor would be chosen according to the electoral-college system he had previously offered to scrap.

His ruling Democratic Justice Party meets on June 10 to choose its presidential candidate with all political analysts predicting a massive decision for Roh Tae-Woo, who graduated with Chun from the Korean military academy in 1955 and, as a two-star general, helped him seize power after Park's assassination.

The Kims' new party, provisionally called the Party for Reunification and Democracy (PRD), has hinted it will not take part in voting for the electoral-college members.

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Toward a better handling of employment

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh

IN battling the unemployment of university and community-college graduates—that of skilled labour must be considered separately—the government is proceeding quite firmly and steadily on two fronts: Specific short-term measures and long-term planning. The recent decision to create a substantial number of slots within some of the largest and most vital ministries, like Education and Health, will reduce unemployment quite noticeably. More important, in my opinion, is the earlier and more strategic decision which requires that applications to vacancies in government branches be processed through the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

The latter step is unquestionably positive. For one thing, it saves the applicant, and the individual personnel offices, the time, expense, and psychological trauma of redundant applications. In fact, thanks to another recent measure, one does not have to go to the CSC's premises, for he or she can fill out the job application, easily and conveniently, at home and post it at a nearby post office. We hope that all similar transactions with the public sector will be conducted in the same manner.

Such reform in the employment process, however simple in appearance, is absolutely necessary. Unemployment itself will be with us, with the rest of the world, for quite some time. We do not hope for magical solutions. It would indeed be grossly unreasonable to expect a country so limited in resources and potential to put an end to unemployment overnight. But while unemployment is, undeniably, a serious problem, there is an equally vexing one related to the handling of employment—on which we expect the government to take a better stand. Undoubtedly, the state has the right to demand from its citizens to wait in line patiently, but the citizen in turn has the right to demand fairness in treatment. As things stand, there is not enough justice in the processing of applications.

There are three problems preventing justice in employment. The first is related to the CSC's selection logic. Priority in hiring through the CSC is determined not according to the application date, but the date of graduation. A 1982 graduate, irrespective of when he applies, gets hired before a 1985 graduate. On a first glance, this seems quite reasonable. But it is not. Imagine the following scenario: the '85 graduate filed the application at the CSC immediately upon graduation and has for two years been waiting for his turn, when out of sudden the '82 graduate, who had been working (i.e. in the Gulf) since then and who had not applied to the CSC before, decides to apply. The latter takes the slot of the former, who will have to wait another year now. I think it is more reasonable to use the date of application as the basis for selection, for it—and not the graduation date—expresses the true priority.

There is a second, bipartite problem. Not all government bodies recruit through the CSC. There are not semi-independent establishments (i.e. universities, Radio Station, etc.), but hard-core public

ones (i.e. several ministries and their departments) which do their own hiring totally independently. I think it is fair, for those whose applications are piling in the CSC's cabinets, to have all those applying for positions in the public sector go through the CSC.

There are, more significant, other establishments which are supposed to coordinate with the CSC, but which willingly violate the arrangement. This is indeed a serious problem. A lot of behind-the-scene hiring takes place in order to accommodate friends and relatives. Such acts are not only immoral, but also damaging to the establishment itself, for those who are sneaked through the back door are usually uncompetitive, spoiled, good-for-nothing individuals who will not do the job properly. What is really sad is that such practice is quite widespread.

This latter point brings us, thirdly, to the more general and crucial issue. Whether at the CSC or the various individual personnel offices, personal connections seem to still play a decisive role in employment. The applicant might be outstanding and exceptional, but unless he finds an influential relative or friend to pull some strings for him, his chances remain very slim. The blame here lies on both the hiring party and the citizen. The personnel staff are to blame because they (since most of them do not enjoy a strong sense of commitment and pride in their establishment) bow quite easily to pressure from friends and acquaintances. In fact most take pride in such unethical behaviour: Doing a favour to a friend is far more important than the welfare of the establishment itself or even the country. But the citizen is also to blame. The majority of our people, including—regrettably—the "enlightened," "educated" ones see absolutely nothing wrong in approaching employers through the back door.

The solution is two-fold. First, we need to make it a rule to minimise the number of those in charge of employment. The fewer personnel offices the better. Doing the recruiting through the CSC is positive precisely because it limits the number of those involved. We can only wish—and this is perhaps what the government intends to do—that all vacancies in the public sector will be filled through the CSC.

Secondly, we ought to pay serious attention to the psychological roots of the problem. The people taking care of employment ought to be trained not just administratively, but also morally. Unless they respect the values of fairness and equal opportunity and unless they refrain from breaking the laws and regulations which aim to foster such goals all efforts to achieve an acceptable degree of justice will fail. The citizen, likewise, will have to be educated. Such task will take a lot of time and effort no doubt, but is absolutely essential. We hope that our national development plans will address such subtle problems more seriously.

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — If it seems as if we're in the midst of an ice age, it may not be simply because it is the middle of winter.

The ice age has really not left earth for two million years, geologists say. For the last 12,000 years, we have been living in only a slightly warmer spell of it.

At the peak of the last great icy time, some 18,000 years ago when Cro-Magnon man lived, thick ice and snow buried more than three-tenths of the world's land area.

Ice scoured and heaped the hills around New York City, fed the river courses that meet at St. Louis, gouged the Great Lake basins and Norwegian fjords.

Goodbye Chicago

"Someday—soon, say some climatologists, who think in millennia—ice could creep south again over North America to bulldoze away Chicago and shove its wreckage to St. Louis," wrote Samuel W. Matthews in the January National Geographic.

Ice still covers one-tenth of all earth's land and an entire ocean, the Arctic.

Almost 90 per cent of today's ice lies atop the Antarctic continent—7 million cubic miles of ice, as much as 12,140 feet thick. And Antarctica is literally a desert; most of it gets less than 2 inches of snow a year. But that snow scarcely ever melts.

Ice, which brings streams and waterfalls to frozen stillness, can also, by continued melting, slowly raise the level of all the oceans.

Ice can be a killer on streets. It can ground planes, sink ships, break water pipes, cut off electricity, flood farms, and freeze crops. Hailstorms have caused more economic damage in the United States, primarily through crop destruction, than tornadoes.

But ice also can give a warm protective coating to Florida strawberry plants in winter. When below-freezing temperatures are forecast, the plants are sprayed with water, which encases the strawberries at 32 F., a temperature at which they can survive.

"A remarkable stuff indeed," Matthews writes. Not only does ice produce heat while freezing and absorb it in melting; it floats, because (unlike almost every other substance) it is lighter as a solid than as a liquid.

If it were not for this phenomenon, ice cubes dropped in a glass of water would sink to the bottom. Icebergs would not float. Lakes, rivers, and seas would freeze from the bottom up. The world would be in deep, cold trouble.

"Ice is one of nature's most beautiful and elegant substances," writes Matthews. It can form in the atmosphere as lacy, delicate crystals: snow. Thoreau called snowflakes chariot wheels fallen from a battle in the sky.

Ice surges forward

When one year's snowfall does not melt before the next year's snow, a glacier is born. In a phenomenon called surge, glaciers can race at 10 to 100 times their normal rate, writes John L.



Runaway ice walls, such as this one formed by Alaska's advancing Hubbard Glacier, possess the power to create and destroy the face of the Earth. Although the great ice sheets began retreating about 14,000 years ago, countless thousands of

glaciers still lie upon the globe landscape, which remains about 10 per cent ice. In Alaska, covered by about 30,000 square miles of ice, more than 20

glaciers show signs of rapid advance.

if the ice shelves hold, says glaciologist George H. Denton of the University of Maine, the specter of collapse of Antarctic ice and a catastrophic rise in sea level seems unlikely.

Though worried by the continuing increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, leading to even warmer climate, most scientists put the possible rise in sea level—largely from expansion of warm seawater and the melting of the Northern Hemisphere glaciers—at only 1 to 2 feet by the

year 2100. Until now, it had been thought that ice lay deep on Antarctica as long as 15, even 30, million years ago. But three Ohio State geologists, Peter-Neil Webb, David M. Harwood, and John H. Mercer, have identified tree stems, roots, pollen, and tiny fossils of open-water marine life as being 2 million to 4 million years old.

These findings require a major and radical rethinking of Antarctica's long glacial history, Matthews concludes.

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Everton moves closer to title

LONDON (R) — Everton, on the verge of winning the English soccer championship for the past two weeks, squandered two points when they were held to a goalless draw at home by bottom club Manchester City Saturday.

Nearest rivals Liverpool lost 1-0 at Coventry and an Everton victory would, barring some highly improbable results, give them back the championship they surrendered to Liverpool, a year ago.

But Everton can guarantee themselves the title if they win at Norwich on Monday.

One title was confirmed when Glasgow Rangers, in match full of incident, including the sending off of skipper Graeme Souness, drew 1-1 with Aberdeen.

That point was enough to give them the championship for the first time since 1978 because back in Glasgow, arch rivals Celtic crashed surprisingly and disastrously 2-1 to lowly Falkirk.

Everton had won their last ten league games at home while City, with only seven victories all season, have not won away in any competition for 16 months.

Mecir beats rain and opponent

HAMBURG (R) — Milosav Mecir overcame the twin problems of steady rain and an almost equally persistent opponent in Eduardo Bengoechea of Argentina to reach the final of the \$375,000 West German Open Saturday.

The second-seeded Czechoslovak, through to his sixth final this year, won 7-6, 6-1 in a match which began 43 minutes late because of rain and was later broken off for more than an hour and a half for the same reason.

Bengoechea, 27, ranked only 61 in the world, had beaten three seeds in his best performance in 11 years on the tennis circuit and he was in no mood to give up.

He had to wait twice to lead 3-0 in a first set played in light rain but the Argentine reeled off four games in a row to lead 4-3.

Mecir, winner here in 1985 and losing finalist last year, finally took the tiebreak 7-4 and was 2-1 up in the second set when the match was interrupted by heavier rain.

After the players returned, Mecir was completely in control, needing just 16 minutes to take the last four games.

"It was quite difficult to play in the rain," he said.

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surely come too late and Aston Villa, beaten 2-1 at Arsenal are also in dire straits.

The only consolation for both of them were the defeats of nearest fellow strugglers Charlton, Leicester and Oxford. Charlton and Oxford both lost 1-0 at home, to Luton and Norwich, while Leicester were beaten 3-1 at Chelsea.

Sheffield Wednesday soared away from trouble with a 7-1 win over Queen's Park Rangers, David Hirst and Brian Marwood each scoring twice.

At the top of the second division, Derby County made sure of promotion with a 2-1 win over Leeds in front of a 20,000-strong crowd.

In Scotland Rangers fought brilliantly after the dismissal of Souness to earn the priceless point.

Souness, the former Scotland captain who was sent off in the opening game of the season, received his marching orders in the 30th minute after two previous warnings.

England international Terry Butcher put Rangers ahead ten minutes later. Aberdeen equalised through Brian Irvine just before the interval.

Celtic were a goal down after only a minute and it was an hour before they levelled through a penalty by Brian McClair. Then with four minutes left Jimmy Gilmour crushed the hopes of the Celtic faithful with a second goal for Falkirk.

City defied expectations with a confident display that deserved more. Dangerman Paul Stewart, a constant threat, slammed a shot against the Everton bar after 58 minutes as City proved full of surprises.

Everton had another escape when one of their former players, Imre Varadi, hit the angle of the bar and upright with ten minutes left.

To add to Everton's frustrations they lost their England midfielder Peter Reid through injury after only 26 minutes.

Liverpool found English F.A. (Football Association) Cup finalists Coventry in buoyant form and a nick picking goal after 49 minutes sent the 27,000 crowd, Coventry's biggest for years, home delighted.

Tottenham's slimmer than slim chance of surprising the top two finally disintegrated when they were beaten 2-0 at Nottingham Forest.

Everton have three games left and are four points clear of Liverpool who have only two more matches to play, at home to Watford and away to Chelsea.

After their trip to Norwich, Everton wind up their season with home games against Luton and Tottenham.

City's point at Everton has

Malaysia upsets favourites New Zealand in golf semifinals

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Brothers Nazamudin and Sabahudin Yusof kept their composure to help hosts Malaysia score an upset 2½ to ½ victory over favourites New Zealand in the semifinals of the Dunhill Cup Pacific Golf Final.

In the other semifinals on Saturday, the Philippines scored their expected victory over Hong Kong by two to one, to meet Malaysia in the final today.

Malaysia's top golfer, Marimuthu Ramayah, shared the point with Greg Turner of New Zealand when both golfers carded a two-under 69.

Nazamudin, who was leading Simon Owen by two strokes, shot into the bunker in the 18th hole but recovered well to play par golf and give his team the lead.

Owen recovered a stroke on the final hole with an easy three-foot putt but it was too late to

catch the Malaysian.

New Zealander Frank Nabilo was trailing by a stroke in the first nine. He fought a neck-to-neck battle with Sabahudin Yusof in the second nine but ended a stroke behind.

The New Zealanders were disappointed with the defeat but Owen said the team would pick itself up against Hong Kong today to win a trip to St. Andrews on 4.

Filipinos Frankie Minoza and Rudy Laverses scored 71 and 69 to beat Tang Shu Wing's and Alex Tang's 75 and 76 for Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's Yau Sui Ming reduced the deficit when he beat Eddie Bagtas 71-73.

Malaysia beat New Zealand 2½ to ½. Marimuthu Ramayah 69 Greg Turner 69, Nazamudin Yusof 74 Simon Owen 75, Sabahudin Yusof 71 Frank Nabilo 72.

Philippines beat Hong Kong 2-1: Frankie Minoza 71 Tang Shu Wing 75, Rudy Laverses 69 Alex Tang 76, Eddie Bagtas 73 Yau Sui Ming 71.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Iraqi paper criticises UAE fans at match

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's leading sports newspaper Saturday criticised soccer fans in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for their behaviour in an Olympic Games qualifying match which Iraq won 3-0. Al Bath Al Raiyadi newspaper, commenting on Friday night's match in Dubai, said police in the stadium were no more than "paper tigers." During the game, shown on Baghdad Television, UAE fans were seen throwing empty bottles at Iraqi players without any action from police. The match, which put Iraq into the next regional qualifying round for the 1988 Olympic Games in South Korea along with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait, was held up for 10 minutes near the end because of crowd behaviour. "The champions of Iraq scored the victory against the UAE team on its own ground despite all the circumstances it faced, mainly the bad-mannered audience who lack sporting morals," Al Bath Al Raiyadi said. The newspaper's editor-in-chief is Uday Hussein, son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Iraq chartered aircraft to fly hundreds of fans to the UAE for the match.

Kusakabe maintains lead in golf

NAGOYA, Japan (R) — Japan's Masaji Kusakabe shot a 69 to keep a two-stroke lead in the third round of the 90 million yen (\$643,000) Chunichi Crown's Golf Tournament on Saturday. Kusakabe, 41, carded two birdies against one bogey over the 6,491-yard, par-70 Nagoya Golf Club course for an aggregate of 16 under-par 200. Compatriot Masashi Ozaki had a 66 and moved into second spot with 202, followed by Ian Baker-Finch of Australia, who had a 69 for 203.

Rain interrupts West German Open tennis

HAMBURG (R) — Rain disrupted semifinal play Saturday at the \$375,000 West German Open Tennis Championships. The first match between second seed Milosav Mecir and unseeded Eduardo Bengoechea of Argentina started 43 minutes late and was broken off later with Mecir leading 7-6, 2-1. The second semifinal is between top seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Swede Kent Carlsson, seeded three.

Pakistan makes steady start in cricket

LONDON (R) — Pakistan were 94 for two at lunch on the opening day of a three-day match against Surrey at the Oval Saturday — the opening game of their English tour. Captain Mudasar Nazar went for eight when he was caught at slip by Monte Lynch after chasing a ball from Mark Fethlim. Lynch just failed to hold a second as Shoaib Mohammad, son of the legendary Hanif Mohammad, lifted a delivery from Tony Gray off a bouncy wicket. New batsman Rameez Raja hooked Gray to the boundary and punished the deliveries of Surrey captain Ian Greig but eventually fell to left-arm spinner Keith Medlycott for 41. Don't Forget Me recorded the fastest time for 20 years and not even Pat Eddery's typical power-packed finish on Bellotto could dislodge former champion Carson.

Vet Mike O'Gorman, who treated Don't Forget Me, said:

"When I looked at him at 6.30 this morning I thought he had no chance. Then I remembered a similar thing with Horage (a winner at Royal Ascot a few years ago) and I thought it was worth a fifth to fourth."

The trouble started when the horse lost his shoe in his horse box on the journey to the course on Friday, cutting his foot in the process.

Trainer Richard Hannon sat up

all Friday night applying a poultice and ice packs and then on Saturday morning a vet recommended more ice be applied while the horse's foot rested in a jaccuzzi.

Don't Forget Me was only de-

clared a certain runner two hours

before the race but shrugged off

his problems in convincing

style.

Ridden by Willie Carson, the

9-1 chance held off the powerful

late run of second favourite Bel-

lotto (7-1), the mount of champion

Pat Eddery, by a neck.

Most Welcome (14-1) finished

a length away in third but was

later disqualified for an incident

involving the warm 6-5 favourite

Ajdal.

The previous day, Piquet had

been strongly fancied to give

Sheikh Mohammad of Dubai his

first success in this classic.

After being reluctant to go into

the starting stalls Ajdal raced just

behind the leading group.

But when jockey Walter Swin-

burn asked Ajdal for the final

effort Most Welcome, with Paul

Eddery on board, hampered his

rival at an important stage

although it is almost certain the

colt would not have caught the

late

After Senna's pacescing lap

late in the session, Mansell tried

to eclipse him once more in his

number one car with new tyres,

but he was slowed by an engine

problem.

Despite taking pole position,

Senna said the Lotus, equipped

with his fastest time early in the

session, but traffic problems pre-

vented him from racing it later.

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Despite taking pole position,

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NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia exports wheat to 16 countries

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — Saudi Arabia has exported 1.2 million tons of wheat to 16 countries so far this year, according to figures published here by the kingdom's agriculture and water resources ministry. Export orders for a further 113,300 tons of wheat had already been finalised, the ministry said. Wheat exports to OPEC member countries this year have included Indonesia (240,165 tons), the United Arab Emirates (84,000 tons) and Kuwait (47,604 tons). Other countries to which Saudi wheat has been exported include Jordan, South Korea, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Kenya, China and Bangladesh.

AMF lends North Yemen \$27.5 million

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) last week said it had granted North Yemen a low-interest, five-year loan of \$7.05 million Arab Accounting Dinars (\$2.75 million) for balance of payments support. Interest varies from 5.2 to 6.4 per cent with four six-month payments beginning after 42 months' grace. The loan brings outstanding AMF loans to North Yemen to around \$100 million. The AMF was formed in 1977 by members of the Arab League to provide balance of payments, trade and training support to poorer Arab countries.

French bank to slip ads in cheque books

PARIS (R) — Makers of French perfume and other luxury goods are planning to advertise inside cheque books, an official of the Regional Societe Lyonnaise de Banque said last week. Faced with public opposition to plans to introduce charges, the bank instead will soon carry five to six such advertising slips inside a book of 25 cheques, he said. Airlines, vehicle makers and chambers of commerce were also expected to pay for this new form of advertising in France.

Total wins oil contract in South Yemen

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — South Yemen has awarded an oil exploration contract to Total of France, it was reported here last week. News reports quoting company officials said Total would explore in a 160,000 square kilometre-concession area east of the Shabwah city where oil was discovered in commercial quantities. Total will spend some \$80 million to drill three wells in addition to other operations which will be completed in three years.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an interesting day when you can enjoy conventional and established romantic outlets. Be sure you look at everything from proven and enlightened attitudes.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Forget business affairs and do whatever you enjoy the most. Make yourself charming and go after your dreams.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Stick to whatever has been proven and plan how to gain your wishes. Make this a very happy day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contact close friends who are important in your existence and enjoy them immensely today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are more charming than you have been for some time, so get out in public and use this quality.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) It's an ideal day to see advisers you admire. Get into whatever can bring you the greatest amount of happiness.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Make a plan to gain your personal longings, and then follow through. Be sensible and stay on your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 21) This is a good day to see bigwigs at leisure. If you have some social debt to repay, do it now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22 to Nov. 21) Look into new outlets that could bring you added profits in the future. Study your newspaper for ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's a good day to plan how to make your assets more valuable. The evening can bring romance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Show more warmth when dealing with allies and improve relationships. Gain more success in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Find the right way to make your environment more charming. Improve the value of your property.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) It's a fine day to see as many persons as you can. Do everything that will insure your personal security now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be most affectionate and very loving. This child will be able to put across ideas in an intelligent and well-organized manner. A good education is important in this life. Good manners will prove beneficial.

THE Daily Crossword



